

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO JESSICA
SELESTINE JENKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jessica Selestine Jenkins. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of this young woman.

Jessica Selestine Jenkins was born on September 10, 1987 in Brooklyn, NY. She is the daughter of proud parents, Moszestia Ahay and Ronald Jenkins.

Jessica is a role model for her family and young people in her community. In her quiet and studious manner, Jessica was educated in the private and public schools of Brooklyn, NY. She attended Phyls Academy, Parkway Elementary School, Ebenezer Junior High School and Boys and Girls High School.

Jessica has always maintained honor roll status throughout her schooling. She is a 2005 Arista Honor Roll graduate of Boys and Girls High School with an average of 91 percent. Her awards, plaques and recognitions are numerous. Some of her most cherished are the Martin Luther King Essay and Community Service Award, the Elliot Spitzer Triple "C" Award, Student of the Month, Community Service Award and Perfect Attendance Award to name a few. Jessica is a member of Berean Baptist Church where she participates in the Youth Ministry.

Jessica loves to work with and teach children. She has been employed with the Berean Summer Day Camp since 2003. Her favorite scripture is "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he would not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Her favorite song is "All of My Help Cometh From the Lord." Her favorite motto is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Jessica is presently a freshman at New York City College of Technology where she is studying to be a registered nurse. She chose this field because of her desire to help others and make a difference in someone's day and/or life. Jessica's hobbies include reading, listening to music and dancing.

Jessica's proud younger siblings, Jani and Jeffery Ahay look up to her as a great sister.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Jessica Selestine Jenkins.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT J.
LEVINSOHN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert J. Levinsohn, an out-

standing New Yorker who has devoted himself in service to others throughout his career. Robert Levinsohn has distinguished himself both as an attorney in private practice and as a driving force behind New York County's pioneering role in fostering a reform of its judicial culture, rendering it free of corruption and unwarranted partisan political influence.

A member of our Nation's greatest generation, Robert J. Levinsohn proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II. He went on to graduate with a bachelor of arts degree from Yale College in 1946 and from the Columbia University School of Law in 1948, where he was named editor of the prestigious Columbia Law Review.

In 1952, Robert J. Levinsohn joined Proskauer Rose LLP, one of the Nation's oldest, largest and most highly respected law firms, and one of the first in the Nation to develop a specialized practice in tax law, which became Mr. Levinsohn's area of professional expertise. Named a partner of the firm in 1963, he continues to represent clients in the firm's New York office to this day. In addition, Mr. Levinsohn's professional qualifications and impeccable reputation for probity and integrity have led his colleagues to name him to numerous leadership positions in the New York State and City Bar Associations as well as the New York County Lawyers' Association.

A lifelong activist devoted to the highest ideals of the Democratic Party, Robert J. Levinsohn naturally assumed a series of important positions of leadership in the world of politics and public policy. An active member and longtime Executive Committee member of the Lexington Democratic Club, one of the first political organizations in the Nation devoted to reform of the political and judicial system, Mr. Levinsohn also served as president of the Columbia Law School Democratic Club; president of the New York Young Democratic Club; chief campaign legal aide to the late, much beloved, Manhattan Congressman William Fitts Ryan; cochairman of the Committee for Democratic Voters and of the New Democratic Coalition; cochairman of the New York County Democratic Committee's Law Committee; vice chairman and member of the New York City Council Districting Commission; and a delegate to New York County Democratic Party judicial conventions for more than 35 years. Throughout his professional and civic obligations, Mr. Levinsohn remains devoted to his beloved wife, Louise Katz.

It is in Robert Levinsohn's extraordinary success in reforming New York's judicial and political culture that he will undoubtedly bestow his most enduring legacy on the citizens of our Nation's greatest metropolis. A leader of Manhattan's postwar political reform movement from its first origins, Mr. Levinsohn helped spearhead the drive to remove the taint of political influence from New York's judicial branch. The key to this movement's ultimate success was the reform of the process selecting nominees for judicial office through the establishment of nonpartisan judicial screening panels. This long-sought goal of

civic activists like Mr. Levinsohn was finally realized in 1977 under the leadership of former New York County Democratic Party Chairwoman Miriam Bockman.

The judicial reform package promoted so ably by Robert J. Levinsohn and like-minded advocates of good government succeeded in establishing "doubleblind" independent judicial screening panels that effectively removed partisan political considerations from the judicial nominating process in New York County. Mr. Levinsohn's efforts to ensure the independence of the judiciary was further ratified after a fellow reform advocate, Congressman Edward I. Koch, was elected mayor of New York City and instituted a merit selection process for mayoral appointees to the bench. The reforms advocated by Robert J. Levinsohn have now become a model which is the envy of every other county in the Empire State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Mr. Robert J. Levinsohn, a true reformer in the finest traditions of our great republic.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, only 2 months after Congress cut \$12 billion in student loan assistance, this Republican majority wants the American people to understand how much they appreciate the vital connection between higher education and solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

But let me be clear—they don't. If this majority understood the extent to which access to a quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health, they would not be failing to make college loans more affordable with this bill. If this misguided majority believed that a quality college degree were the cornerstone of the American dream, opening the door to job opportunity and professional fulfillment, they would not be freezing the authorized level of the maximum Pell Grant at just \$200 above current levels through 2013. As if the cost of college will only rise by \$200 in the next 7 years—over the next two decades, the cost of a public university is expected to rise to \$50,000 for a public university and more than a quarter million dollars for a private school.

When this historic law was first passed in 1965, President Johnson promised that, "a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or any university in any of the 50 states and not be turned

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